

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 18, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested. In the Office Action, claims 24-27 are objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. Further, the Examiner treated the claims as being dependent on claim 22 rather than being dependent on claim 21 as they are written. Therefore, the Applicant has edited the claims to depend on claim 22.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13-25 and 27-31 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Pinkerton (US Pub. No.: 2006/0069792) in view of Boyd (US Pub. No.: 2004/0049601). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Pinkerton in view of Boyd and in further view of Boucher (US 6,436,620). Claims 11, 12 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Pinkerton in view of Boyd and in further view of Meyer (US Pub. No.: 2002/0145976). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claims have been amended to emphasize the commands being executed are passed back and forth between the TCP stack the offload unit, with TCP/IP connections being processed by either the TCP stack or the offload unit according to the command. Further, a command ring is the vehicle for passing commands back and forth between the two elements based on a pointer, which may be provided by either one of the elements, designating which element is the owner of each command.

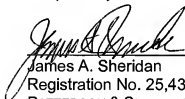
The Pinkerton reference does not teach a command ring, which is a primary feature of the present invention for passing the commands of communication back and forth between the TCP stack and the offload unit, both of which are capable of processing connections. Instead, Pinkerton simply teaches delegating certain commands to a peripheral device and keeping track of the delegated commands with a link list. Rather than passing commands back and forth and processing connections at either the TCP stack or the offload unit, the Examiner can cite only that a command that has been delegated to a peripheral device is read back when the offload is terminated.

To provide a teaching of the command ring, the Examiner cites Boyd, especially at page 9, paragraph 118. However, this section, and the rest of the reference in its

entirety, only teaches the existence of a circular link list to which entries may be made. It does not teach that the link list serves to coordinate the execution of commands to implement connections between both a TCP stack and an offload unit, with each having access to the command ring to convey a command to the other element and to inform the other element that the transfer of ownership of the command has been made.

In view of the lack of teaching of these fundamental elements of the claimed invention, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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